XVII. Recreation

SIDEBAR: Guiding Principles

Sustainability matters. Environmental, economic, cultural, and social sustainability ensure that present actions are the basis for future health and prosperity.

The environment matters. Natural environmental health is inherent to individual and community health, and healthy ecosystems should be nurtured.

Prosperity matters. Capitalizing on the innovative spirit that exists in the community will support the human, financial, and capital infrastructure needed for a sustainable and diverse economy.

Place matters. Regional growth should occur in harmony with the community's historical character, unique cultural resources, and natural environment.

People matter. All residents should be assured equal opportunities for a range of choices in housing, employment, education, health, safety, and devotion.

As well as promoting a healthy quality of life, urban and rural recreation opportunities are a means to promote active stewardship of the natural and built environment and citizen vitality. High-quality parks and recreation facilities can be built and maintained in a sustainable fashion that supports a healthy ecosystem, enhances a resilient, year-round economy, preserves a unique sense of place, and provides social opportunity for all citizens and visitors.

[End sidebar]

Flagstaff is Our Playground

The Flagstaff region prides itself as being one of the best "quality of life" communities in the nation, in part due to abundant indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, all of which contribute greatly to the community's public health. The Flagstaff region has numerous public and private developed recreational facilities and innumerable outdoor resources for passive and active recreation, including city and county parks and recreational facilities, Arizona state parks, federal forest land, school playgrounds and playfields, golf courses, private neighborhood parks, and a privately run ski area on federal land. In addition, the region has, and is developing, a regional trail system, and bicycle routes Many local, state, and federal roadways are designated scenic drives. Parks, recreational opportunities, and open space are vital parts of the community's "green infrastructure" as well as the social infrastructure that helps define the unique character of the region. Support for recreation improvements, park redevelopment, and new park development projects by local governments is demonstrated in Coconino County's *Organizational Master Plan* (2009) and the City of Flagstaff's comprehensive *Parks and Recreation Organizational Master Plan* (2012). These policy documents provide key priorities and recommended strategies for investing citizen-approved tax-revenues for recreational facilities.

In addition to developed recreational facilities, the region has significant open space available for recreational purposes. In designated open space areas, it is the intent to plan for open space with conservation values compatible with active parks and trails while protecting land. Where parks and recreation facilities are proposed adjacent to or within open space land, the facility design will be sensitive to the open space values. The resulting design will be harmonious, well-organized, and

constructed with consideration to how the park and open space will best function. IN addition, parks and recreation areas may provide gateways onto open space and vice versa.

As an important indicator of the region's quality of life, parks and recreation facilities and opportunities will continue to grow and be maintained with community support for optimal services. The capital improvements, programs, and services to continue to the level expected by the population will most likely require creative financing and partnerships.

Where Are Our Recreational Facilities?

Numerous parks and recreation facilities exist throughout the Flagstaff region, including city and county parks and recreational facilities, Arizona state parks, and federal forest land.

City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreational Facilities

As the population of Flagstaff has grown, so has the desire to enhance both the quantity and quality of recreation opportunities within the community. Through the 2011 *Parks and Recreation Organizational Master Plan* process, public opinion stressed quality and maintenance of facilities, as well as increased arts and cultural opportunities. The Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) is a fundamental part of the "green infrastructure," one fully supported by the community, that weaves together the city and county parks, recreational facilities, open spaces, and federal recreational lands.

City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Facilities*		
Neighborhood Parks Acreage	Community Parks	
Arroyo Park 8 acres	Bushmaster Park 20 acres	
Bow and Arrow Park 3 acres	Foxglenn Park** 28.3 acres	
Cheshire Park 4.4 acres	McPherson Park 40.3 acres	
Coconino Park .25 acres		
Colton Park .75 acres	City-Wide Regional Parks	
Guadalupe Park .75 acres	Buffalo Park 215 acres	
Heritage Square .25 acres	Continental Park 105 acres	
Joel Montalvo Park 2.1 acres	Thorpe Park** 219 acres	
McMillan Mesa Park** 2.5 acres		
Mobile Haven Park 1.8 acres		
Old Town Springs Park .2 acres	Recreation Facilities	
Plaza Vieja Park .25 acres	Aquaplex – recreation, exercise and leisure pool **	
Ponderosa Park 2.5 acres		
Smokerise Park .75 acres	Thorpe Park Community & Senior Center **	
University Highlands Park .9 acres	Flagstaff Recreation Center	
Mountain View Park 1.3 acres	Jay Lively Ice Rink **	
Wheeler Park 2.5 acres	BMX Bicycle Park **	
Community Partnership Recreation Facilities		
Murdock Recreation Center		
FUSD Playing Fields** (Killip, Christensen, Sechrist, MEMS and Thomas – 18 acres of turf and 3 BB Courts)		
Cogdill Recreation Center		

^{*} These facilities total approximately 709 acres and 53 miles of Flagstaff Urban Trail System.

^{**} New / additional / updated park or recreational facility added since the 2001 Regional Plan.

Coconino County Parks and Recreational Facilities

Coconino County has worked hard to provide, and the public has agreed to help pay for, enhanced outdoor recreational opportunities. The 2009 *Parks and Recreation Organizational Master Plan* highlights maintained and improved existing facilities, upgrades to increase capacity, a focus on large parks devoted to natural areas, open spaces, corridor trails, passive recreation, nature education/adventure camps, and special events. As local county communities agree to participate in fundraising, operation, and facility development, additional parks will be added.

Coconino County Parks and Recreation Facilities within FMPO Boundaries	
Community Parks	City-Wide Regional Parks
Peaks View Park 27 acres	Fort Tuthill 413 acres
Raymond Park 12.5 acres	Pumphouse County Natural Area 115.2 acres
Sawmill Multi-cultural Art & Nature Center 2 acres	Rogers Lake Natural Area 2,250 acres
	Recreation Facilities
	Fort Tuthill
	- Fairgrounds, racetrack, equestrian facilities
	- Amphitheater, campground, Military museum

^{***} http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/index.shtml

Arizona State Parks

Riordan Mansion State Historic Park is located within the City of Flagstaff and is the only operating State Park facility within the *Flagstaff Regional Plan* area. This historic structure of exemplary northern Arizona architecture, circa 1904, provides tours and event space.

Coconino National Forest

The Flagstaff Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest offers numerous recreation opportunities within the Flagstaff region, including campgrounds, cabins, hiking and horseback riding trails, wilderness areas with remarkable geological features, scenic drives, water play, and various snowplay opportunities. National Forest land surrounding the urban community is vulnerable to short-term closures due to fire danger, wildfires, and seasonal road closures from heavy snow or exceedingly wet weather.

Coconino National Forest Recreation Facilities within FMPO Boundaries***		
National Parks	Wilderness Area	
Sunset Crater	Kachina Peaks	
Wuapatki		
Walnut Canyon		
Campgrounds	Special Activities	
Bonito	Elden Pueblo – archaeological site	
Little Elden	Lava River Cave	
Lockett Meadow	Cinder Hills OHV Area	
O'Leary		
Ashurst Lake	Boating / Fishing	
Canyon Vista	Ashurst Lake	
Dairy Springs	Lower and Upper Lake Mary	
Kinnikinick	Marshall Lake	

Lakeview	Mormon Lake (just outside FMPO Boundary)
Pinegrove	
Scenic Drives	Snowplay Opportunities
Around the Peaks Loop 44 miles	Flagstaff Nordic Center
Schultz Pass Road 26 miles	Snowbowl Ski Area
Snowbowl Road 15 miles	Peakview
	Wing Mountain
	Kendrick Snowmobile Trail System (just outside FMPO
	Boundary)
	Mormon Lake Ski Touring / Snowmobile Trail System
	(just outside FMPO Boundary)

Development of Recreation Areas

As the region's population grows, recreational opportunities must increase to maintain or improve recreational levels of service. Measurable standards to ascertain whether or not recreational levels of service are being met are determined by a combined matrix of acreage, amenities, quality of facilities, and demand. Playgrounds, sport fields and courts, ramadas, restrooms, and other amenities need to be provided in numbers relative to the population. Open space, hiking, camping, boating, and snowplay opportunities are available within the region, and help provide the region's high quality of life as well as economic potential. Each jurisdiction within the region establishes its own desired level of service. Careful consideration and planning must ensure that existing and future park acreages provide a full range of amenities, and that all jurisdictions' services complement and enhance each other. The separate jurisdictions' master plans guide the number of parks, type of parks, and location of parks by land availability, funding resources, development patterns, existing development, and identified deficiencies within a given area.

Coconino County Parks and Recreation *Organizational Master Plan*: In 2009, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors approved the Coconino County Parks and Recreation Department's *Organizational Master Plan*, which "establishes goals, policies, and strategies to reposition the department to provide a wider range of outdoor programs and services to a wider range of citizens. Goals to be addressed through 2019 are facility management, repair and replacement; financial and budgetary management; strategic growth; and new programs and facilities."

Three fundamental directions were established in the master plan process:

- 1. Maintain and improve existing facilities, including capital repair and replacement, and upgrades to expand capacity or generate additional revenues for parks.
- 2. Focus on large parks devoted to natural areas, open spaces, corridor trails, passive recreation, nature education/adventure camps, and special events.
- 3. Develop additional county parks in local communities that agree to participate in fund raising, operation, and facility maintenance."

City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Organizational Master Plan: The City of Flagstaff updated its *Parks and Recreation Organizational Master Plan* in 2012, the objectives of which were to represent the community; represent Flagstaff's unique character; be fiscally sound, forward-thinking, and accessible; integrate with other plans and planning efforts; and be sustainable. The plan emphasizes parks and recreation facilities as part of the community's "green Infrastructure."

Snowplay: An ongoing discussion with the private and public sector, snowplay is a major outdoor recreation activity for residents and visitors as well as an economic income source for the community. Collaborative efforts between the County, City, U.S. Forest Service, and private recreation and service

providers have produced a number of initiatives. For example, ski-buses are available for Northern Arizona University students and there is potential of one for visitors in a park-and-ride situation that could alleviate some snowplay traffic congestion. In addition to the existing Wing Mountain, Crowley Pit, Peak View, and Walker Lake, all north of the City of Flagstaff, other non-skiing snow play options have been developed. Fort Tuthill County Park established a snowplay area in 2010 that includes a "kiddie" sled hill, cross-country ski trail, snowshoe trail, and open space for passive snow play. It is located southwest of the city limits off of I-17. Other central locations are being considered within the city of Flagstaff to provide safe snowplay for families Snowplay areas also need to include restrooms, trash and recycling cans, and refreshment amenities. Creating robust multi-season recreation opportunities furthers many other *Flagstaff Regional Plan* goals.

Goals and Policies

Goal Rec.1. Maintain the region's healthy system of convenient and accessible parks, recreation facilities, and trails.

Policy Rec.1.1. Integrate active and passive recreational sites within walking distance throughout the region to promote a healthy community for all city and county residents and visitors.

Policy Rec.1.2. Promote public and private partnerships to offer parks, recreation facilities, and resources.

Policy Rec.1.3. Ensure that new or updated public facilities include parks, open space, and/or recreational opportunities where feasible.

Policy Rec.1.4. Incorporate sustainable building and maintenance technologies and Universal Design into parks and recreation facilities.